

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01329 01 OF 02 221429Z
ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 SP-02 L-03 AID-05

PA-01 /033 W

-----084348 221453Z /41

R 221320Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7758

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1329

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, ET

SUBJECT: ICA COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL, FY 1979 AND FY 1980

REF: STATE 57880; LETTER FROM ICA DIRECTOR REINHARDT,
DATED FEBRUARY 14, 1978, WITH ATTACHMENTS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS UNDER REFERENCE, EMBASSY SUBMITS
FOR CONCURRENCE ITS ESSAY ON BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATION-
SHIP WITH ETHIOPIA FOR FY-1979 AND FY-1980. PROJECT PROPOSALS
WILL FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE BY POUCH.

BEGIN TEXT

BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP

1. FOR NEARLY THIRTY YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II, ETHIOPIA'S
COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATIONAL TIES TO THE UNITED STATES WERE
CLOSER THAN TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY OF THE WORLD. FOLLOWING THE DE-
POSITION OF EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE IN 1974 AND ACCESSION
TO POWER OF A REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY GOVERNMENT, EFFORTS
BY USIS AND THE EMBASSY TO MAINTAIN THERHITHERTO CLOSE
RELATIONSHIP MET WITH GROWING DIFFICULTIES. THESE WERE THE
RESULT FOR THE MOST PART OF IDEOLOGICAL INCOMPATIBILITIES.
ETHIOPIA HAD BY THEN CHOSEN AND BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT AN AVOWEDLY
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01329 01 OF 02 221429Z

MARXIST COURSE. BILATERAL CULTURAL RELATIONS CAME TO AN ALMOST
COMPLETE HALT IN APRIL 1977 WHEN, IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN ETHIO-
PIAN GOVERNMENT (EPMG) DECISION TO ABROGATE THE US-ETHIOPIAN
MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT OF 1953, USIS WAS IN-
STRUCTED TO TERMINATE ITS OPERATIONS IN ETHIOPIA AND TO WITHDRAW
ALL AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE. THE SIX USIS READING ROOMS
LOCATED IN PROVINCIAL CITIES AND OPERATED BY ETHIOPIAN

LIBRARIANS WERE ALSO CLOSED AT THE SAME TIME.

2. GIVEN THE PRECIPITOUS NATURE OF THE EPMG ACTION, MUCH RESIDUAL USIS ACTIVITY REMAINED TO BE DONE. AS A RESULT, THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THE EMBASSY WAS CHARGED WITH PURSUING THE PROGRAMMATIC ASPECTS OF THE PRESS, CULTURAL, AND EDUCATIONAL WORK, WHEREAS THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISPOSAL OF USIS PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT. THE SENIOR FSL FROM THE FORMER USIS OFFICE IN ADDIS ABABA WAS ALSO RETAINED ON A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT, BUT HIS SERVICES WILL PROBABLY BE TERMINATED ON MARCH 30, 1978.

3. THE PAST ELEVEN MONTHS HAVE BEEN FOR THE MOST PART A PHASING OUT OPERATION. ALL USIS OFFICE AND RESIDUAL BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO THEIR ETHIOPIAN OWNERS. ALL BOOKS AND SUPPLIES IN THE FORMER USIS LIBRARY IN ADDIS ABABA HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE NEWLY EXPANDED LIBRARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT, THE EPMG HAS ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF THE PROVINCIAL READING ROOMS AND HAS RETAINED THE BOOKS, BUT NOT THE MOTION PICTURE AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT. USABLE USIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SHIPPED TO OTHER USIS POSTS IN AFRICA. BOOK, DONATIONS, CIRCULATION OF PRESS RELEASES AND OTHER INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS, AND SPEAKER PROGRAMS AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED ALTOGETHER.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 01329 01 OF 02 221429Z

4. IN SHORT THE BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP HAS REACHED AN ALL TIME LOW POINT, FROM WHICH THE ONLY DIRECTION TO GO IS UPWARDS. THE EMBASSY IS UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THE SITUATION WILL CHANGE MATERIALLY FOR THE BETTER DURING THE NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS, BUT THERE IS AT LEAST A MODEST FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD. BUTTRESSING THIS FOUNDATION IS A SUBSTANTIAL RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES THROUGHOUT THE PROFESSIONAL RANKS OF THE ETHIOPIANSOCIETY. MANY OFFICIALS AND EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS OF ALL LEVELS HAVE BEEN EDUCATED AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, RECEIVED SPECIALIZED TRAINING AT US EXPENSE, OR HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS IN THE PAST. EVEN THOSE CRITICAL OF THE US, ITS SOCIAL SYSTEM, AND ITS POLICY OBJECTIVES HAVE A HIGH RESPECT FOR AMERICAN EXPERTISE, KNOWHOW, AND THE QUALITY OF ITS PRODUCTS. HENCE, THE POTENTIAL INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN US TRAVEL GRANTS, GRAUDATE UNIVERSITY STUDIES, AND PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION PROGRAMS REMAINS STRONG, THOUGH ACTUAL PARTICIPATION IS SEVERELY HAMPERED BY ETHIOPIAN POLICIES RESTRICTING TRAVEL FOR ANY PURPOSE TO WESTERN COUNTRIES.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01329 02 OF 02 221450Z

ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 PA-01 L-03 AID-05

SP-02 /033 W

-----084564 221452Z /43

R 221320Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7759

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1329

5. NEVERTHELESS, A FEW GRANT RECIPIENTS CONTINUE TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR US TRAVEL, AND IT IS THE TASK OF THE EMBASSY TO ASCERTAIN THOSE FIELDS SERVING OUR INTERESTS IN WHICH ETHIOPIAN CANDIDATES HAVE THE BEST PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING SUCH PERMISSION. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED SOME ENCOURAGING INDICATIONS OF ETHIOPIAN WILLINGNESS TO SEND LIMITED NUMBERS OF STUDENTS TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES FOR ADVANCED DEGREE STUDIES IN SELECTED FIELDS, BUT HAS BEEN HESITANT TO TIE UP TOO MUCH OF ITS LIMITED CULTURAL BUDGET IN STUDY PROJECTS OF THIS KIND EXTENDING OVER SEVERAL YEARS. ANOTHER LIMITED POSSIBILITY IS THE PLACEMENT OF ONE OR MORE FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS AT ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY, AT LEAST IN THE TECHNICAL FIELDS, ABOUT WHICH SOME ETHIOPIAN INTEREST HAS BEEN EXPRESSED.

6. IN THE PRESS AND CULTURAL FIELDS, THERE WILL BE LITTLE OR NO OPPORTUNITY FOR PRODUCTIVE US ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA, SO LONG AS THE PREVAILING HOSTILE ATTITUDE TOWARDS US INTENTIONS AND ACTIVE DISCOURAGEMENT OR NOMRAL CONTACTS WITH THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE CONTINUE, AND SO LONG AS THE EMBASSY'S OWN PERSONNEL RESOURCES FOR THESE PURPOSES REMAIN AT THEIR PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL. RESIDENT WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA SHOW NO INTEREST IN RECEIVING US PRESS HANDOUTS OR USING WIRE SERVICE MATERIAL, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO MAKE BOTH AVAILABLE ON A LIMITED BASIS, IF ONLY TO ASSURE THAT THE EPMG HAS ACCESS TO ACCURATE TEXTS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 01329 02 OF 02 221450Z

7. IT MAY BE THAT, WITH THE EVENTUAL RELAXATION OF THE TIGHT CULTURAL HOLD PRESENTLY MAINTAINED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND

OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, IT WILL AGAIN BE POSSIBLE FOR THE
US TO MAKE INROADS IN THE PRESS, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL
FIELDS. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE PROSPECTS ARE BLEAK.
MATHERON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS01329
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780126-0403
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780340/aaaabhgi.tel
Line Count: 174
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 651961c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 57880
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3248613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICA COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL, FY 1979 AND FY 1980
TAGS: SCUL, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/651961c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014